

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 /071 W
-----141556Z 064382 /43

P R 141447Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6685
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4274

BUCHAREST FOR VIETS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: THE STAYING POWER OF A "NARROW" LIKUD
COALITION GOVERNMENT

1. OVER THE LAST THREE DAYS, I HAVE HAD CONVERSATIONS
WITH BOTH PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND JERUSALEM MAYOR TDDY
KOLLEK ABOUT THE CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE, AND
PARTICULARLY QUESTION OF HOW DURABLE MIGHT BE A BEGIN
GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT
FOR CHANGE AND ITS FIFTEEN SEATS. A GOOD MANY PEOPLE
HERE AND UNDOUBTEDLY ELSEWHERE ARE NOW ASSUMING THAT
SUCH A GOVERNMENT MAY BE SHORT-LIVED SINCE THE DMC HAS
NOW BROKEN OFF NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ALTHOUGH NEITHER MAN DERIVE ANY PLEASURE FROM THE
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PROSPECT, BOTH BELIEVE THAT A "NARROW COALITION"
COMPRISED ONLY OF THE LIKUD AND THE RELIGIOUS PARTIES
WILL BE ABLE TO REMAIN IN OFFICE FOR A LONG TIME. THEY
BOTH THINK THAT DEFECTIONS TO BEGIN FROM EITHER LABOR
OR THE DMC ARE QUITE POSSIBLE, AND THAT EVEN WITHOUT
MANY SUCH DEFECTIONS, THE COALITION WILL PROVE INTERNALLY
RESISTANT TO DEFECTION OVER MAJOR ISSUES. BOTH

ALSO THINK THIS WILL BE ALL THE MORE THE CASE IF US-ISRAELI RELATIONS DETERIORATE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. IN THAT EVENTUALITY, RABIN AND KOLLEK BOTH THINK BEGIN'S HAND WITH HIS OWN COALITION WILL BE STRENGTHENED, AND THERE WILL BE A CLOSING OF RANKS BEHIND HIM AMONG A NUMBER OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION. NEITHER SEES IT LIKELY THAT A DOMESTIC ISSUE WILL SURFACE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS SUFFICIENTLY DEVISIVE TO BRING ABOUT HIS DOWNFALL, ONCE HE IS IN OFFICE.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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